

for his induction into the University of North Carolina's Order of the Golden Fleece, the oldest and highest honor society at UNC, where Mike received both a bachelor of arts and a juris doctorate.

After graduating from UNC law, Mike practiced as an attorney in his hometown of Lumberton until he was elected to Congress in 1996. During his 18 years representing Robeson County and other parts of southeastern North Carolina, Congressman McIntyre acquired a reputation for excellent constituent service and advocacy for rural communities, including his work on the Agriculture Committee and his co-authoring the landmark Tobacco Buyout legislation, as well as fighting for full Federal recognition of the Lumbee.

For Mike, country over party was not just a slogan, it was his approach to leadership. I am honored not only to carry on his work serving the rural southern Piedmont of North Carolina, but also to strive to emulate his example as I do so.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mike on this appropriate recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

A BILL FOR BAD OPTICS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, after the 5-month deployment of the National Guard around our U.S. Capitol, after the fact of the January 6 break-in, the bill has come due now of over half a billion dollars—\$521 million—for the thousands of troops to guard this Capitol.

This was, again, after the big break-in of January 6. Of course, had the decisionmakers on hand here at the Capitol with their security intel used ahead of time decided to employ just a handful of those troops, we wouldn't have had the January 6 situation happen. But they did not want the bad optics of armed troops standing in front here at that time.

So, instead, we got 5 months' worth of it with two rows of fence, razor wire, and the inability for the people to come visit their Capitol. So now we have months of those optics and a half-a-billion-dollar bill instead.

Mr. Speaker, if that bill doesn't get paid, now our National Guard will not be able to do their training and have their other readiness needs met because Congress hasn't paid the bill for what they did not want ahead of time—bad optics.

Instead, the taxpayers get the bad optics of that bill and a possibly decimated National Guard.

BIDEN BORDER CRISIS

(Mr. NEHLS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, the Biden border crisis continues raging on our southern border. Cartels are getting rich, migrants are getting abused and assaulted, and Americans are becoming victims of crime.

With the record number of illegal aliens attempting to flood across our border, what has the Biden administration done?

Nothing.

For months now, the Biden administration has been denying this crisis exists; telling the American people there is no crisis; telling the American people the border is closed. But we all know better.

I saw it myself firsthand when I visited Del Rio, Texas, a place where every day, around 3:00 p.m., buses pulled up to the Mexican side of the border and unloaded hundreds of illegal aliens. They then waded through knee-high water of the Rio Grande and into our country. Once they arrive on the American side, they are promptly picked up by Border Patrol agents in air-conditioned vans, given a wristband, and away they go to a city near you.

This happens tens of thousands of times every single day and there is no end in sight, not until we revert to Trump's policies.

DEFUND ABORTION

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because, as a proud pro-life advocate, I cannot stay silent as I watch the Biden administration chip away at the rights of defenseless unborn.

Democrats have been working over time with the Biden administration to roll back critical protections for the unborn so they can push radical pro-abortion policies, and their latest victim, it appears, is the Hyde amendment.

For over 40 years, the Hyde amendment has saved millions of lives by preventing the use of taxpayer dollars to fund abortions. A recent poll from the Knights of Columbus indicates that 58 percent of Americans oppose the use of taxpayer dollars to support abortions. That number also includes 65 percent of Independents and 31 percent of Democrats.

If millions of Americans are against the use of tax dollars being used to support abortion, then why is Congress considering legislation that does just exactly that?

If this legislation were for the people, wouldn't we listen to them instead of

forcing American taxpayers to subsidize something that the majority of them are against?

Taking the life of an unborn child is simply unconscionable. I believe that we, as a governing body, have a responsibility to protect life at every stage, especially the defenseless unborn who are unable to advocate for themselves. We have no business using taxpayer dollars to fund abortions.

LAMPETER-STRASBURG SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

(Mr. SMUCKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lampeter-Strasburg High School softball team for winning the PIAA 5A Softball Championship earlier this month, with a 10-7 victory over Armstrong. This is the Pioneers' second State championship in just 3 years. This victory capped off a dominant 30-win season.

Through the halfway mark, the Pioneers were down 1 run entering the 5th inning, but after putting 5 runs on the scoreboard, including a 2-run home run from senior Cam Byler, the game was over as the Pioneers closed out to claim the championship.

Mr. Speaker, I extend congratulations to the team members for their success this season. It is a great credit to the players, their hard work, Head Coach Gene Charles, the entire coaching staff, that, for the past 3 years, the Pioneers have played in the championship game, bringing home the trophy this year and previously in 2018.

Mr. Speaker, our community is really proud of this truly outstanding accomplishment. We wish the graduating seniors best of luck in their future endeavors.

DEFEND NOT DEFUND THE POLICE

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, crime rates spike when you give in to leftist demands and defund the police. It is as simple as that. Sadly, we are seeing this play out in major cities across the country.

The New York Times reports a sample of 37 U.S. cities saw an 18 percent increase in murders in the first 3 months of this year when compared to last.

Mr. Speaker, this rhetoric and policy is dangerous and, worst of all, it is responsible for the dismantling and demoralization of police departments across the country.

We have also seen the dramatic increase on a tax against law enforcement this year. Tragically, two of my constituents are among those who have recently been killed in the line of duty. We must have law and order and support our heroes who place their lives on the line to keep our communities safe.